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ALL WINDOWS MANUFACTURED IN BANBURY

MP defends appointment as a director

BANBURY MP Sir Tony Baldry said this week that he had acted properly by officially recording his appointment as a director for a property company.

He spoke out after he was appointed director of Werner Capital LLP in March, before listing a £5,000 payment in the Register of Members' Financial Interests.

He has since registered a further £20,000 advance payment covering earnings from the firm for April to July, for about six hours work a month.

Sir Tony said: "I made it clear in my election address at the last General Election that I had outside interests and if I were re-elected as the MP for Banbury, I intended to continue with those outside interests.

"When I was first elected as MP for Banbury in 1983 I was a practising barrister and a company director.

"With the exception of the eight years in which I was a Government Minister, in addition to being a MP, I have continued to be a practicing barrister and a company director.

"Much of the regeneration of Docklands and brownfield sites in East London and elsewhere has only been possible because of overseas investment and it is a matter of good news that so many people from overseas wish to invest in the UK.

"We now have to record not just the outside interests but the hours we work and the fees we receive.

"Whenever I receive a payment I record it in the register of members' interests."

Sir Tony Baldry

TEMPORARY SOLUTION

By Alex Wynick

School faces a boom in pupils

A PRIMARY school is having to build a temporary classroom to cope with the growing number of pupils in the area.

Harriers Ground Community Primary School, on Bloxham Road, has submitted a planning application to Cherwell District Council to install a temporary classroom.

It is expecting to have to cope with 70 new pupils at the school, which is part of Harriers Banbury Academy, after being told other schools were full.

Principal Fiona Hims said: "We were approached by Oxfordshire County Council because all of the local schools were already full. It's important children of that age are offered full-time education.

"We added a new class, which opened in January, bringing us up to 75 Year One pupils. It is now making great progress.

"In September they will all move up to Year Two and we need a modular classroom to be added adjacent to the current Year Two classrooms."

The short-term building would be used for five years, with the school hoping it will be able to construct another classroom by then.

The application said: "The installation of this modular building is for a five-year period, to cater for an increase in pupil numbers.

"Within this timescale it is envisaged the academy will construct a permanent structure, whereby this modular building will be removed."

Mrs Hims said: "It will be a classroom for 30 children, with a cloakroom and toilet area.

"These modular buildings are very impressive and professional. I wasn't sure it was the right direction to take but I visited the temporary buildings at Dashwood Banbury Academy and was impressed.

"By September 2015 we want a brick building on the existing site for when we're at full capacity."

Earlier this year Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth warned schools could see the "return to the long-term use of temporary classrooms" because of a lack of Government funds.

In January, it was revealed the Government would not be maintaining current levels of investment in school expansion for Oxfordshire schools.

Just £3m has been allocated for 2015/16 and 2017/18, as opposed to the £16m the council was expecting.

And a further requirement of £8m had also been identified for 2017/18, meaning a potential shortfall of £19.3m.

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said: "Of course it's preferable, wherever possible, to build permanent classrooms and not to have to use temporary classrooms.

"I think very often the choice for parents, particularly for popular schools like Harriers, is either to have a temporary classroom or for children to go to another school.

"Although it is not ideal, I suspect in these circumstances most parents would prefer a temporary classroom than their children having to go to another primary school some distance away."

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2014 DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Banbury Calthorpe:
Colin Clarke **CON**

Banbury Calthorpe:
Sharon Derbe **LAB**

Banbury Calthorpe:
Christopher Manley **GRE**

Banbury Calthorpe:
Christian Miller **UKIP**

PICTURE NOT SUPPLIED
Banbury Easington:
David Burton **UKIP**

Banbury Easington:
Katherine Chandler **GRE**

Banbury Easington:
Mary Young **LAB**

Banbury Easington:
Kieron Mallon **CON**

It is time to

Banbury Grimsbury & Castle:
Kenneth Ashworth **LIBD**

Banbury Grimsbury & Castle:
Claire Bell **LAB**

Banbury Grimsbury & Castle:
John Haywood **GRE**

Banbury Grimsbury & Castle:
Tony Mepham **CON**

Banbury Grimsbury & Castle:
Linda Wren **UKIP**

Banbury Hardwick:
Anthony Burns **LIBD**

Banbury Hardwick:
Keith Humphries **LAB**

Banbury Hardwick:
Tony Ilott **CON**

Banbury Hardwick:
Claire Pearman **GRE**

Banbury Hardwick:
Ryan Wilkins **UKIP**

Banbury Neithrop:
Alyas Ahmed **CON**

Banbury Neithrop:
Andrew Aris **GRE**

Banbury Neithrop:
Matt Johnstone **LAB**

Banbury Neithrop:
Jason Williams **UKIP**

Banbury Ruscote:
Geordie Brown **UKIP**

Banbury Ruscote:
Bernard Dod **GRE**

Banbury Ruscote:
Barry Richards **LAB**

Banbury Ruscote:
Nichola Smith **CON**

Bloxham & Bodicote:
Susan Christie **LAB**

PICTURE NOT SUPPLIED
Bloxham & Bodicote:
Peter Davis **LIBD**

Bloxham & Bodicote:
Mary Rachel Franklin **GRE**

Bloxham & Bodicote:
Chris Heath **CON**

PICTURE NOT SUPPLIED
Bloxham & Bodicote:
Paul Tucker **UKIP**

Deddington:
Colin Clark **GRE**

Deddington:
Aubrey Ellis **UKIP**

Deddington:
Christopher Farman **LAB**

Deddington:
Ian Thomas **LIBD**

Deddington:
Bryn Williams **CON**

POLLING DAY, THURSDAY, MAY 22

Sibford:
John Batts **GRE**

Sibford:
Paul Clifton **UKIP**

Sibford:
Anne Davis **LAB**

Sibford:
Janice Johnson **LIBD**

Sibford:
George Reynolds **CON**

The Astons & Heyfords:
Dickie Bird **UKIP**

The Astons & Heyfords:
John Innes **LIBD**

place your vote

The battle for Banbury hots up

By Damian Fantato

LABOUR is hoping to romp to victory in Banbury at next week's Cherwell District Council elections.

Six seats in the town are up for election on May 22 and all but one are currently held by the Conservatives.

In last year's elections to Oxfordshire County Council, the Labour Party swept the board – taking all four of the town's seats.

District councillor Sean Woodcock, the party's group leader in Cherwell, said: "We are pleased with the response we have been getting, it is even better than we imagined.

"We are very confident we can take a number of seats across the constituency, particularly in Banbury. I think people are starting to realise that under this Government the wrong choices are being made.

"In Banbury this is shown by a doubling in the number of people using food banks and Labour is seen as the only alternative."

Sitting Conservative councillors Colin Clarke, Kieron Mallon, Tony Ilott and Alyas Ahmed are all hoping to win back their seats in Banbury Calthorpe, Banbury Easington, Banbury Hardwick and Banbury Neithrop.

All three are up against candidates from Labour, the Greens and UKIP.

Meanwhile, Conservative councillor for Banbury Grimsbury and Castle, Margaret Cullip, is standing down, with her party's candidate Tony Mepham going up against four rivals from Labour, UKIP, the Lib Dems and the Greens.

In Banbury Ruscote, incumbent Labour councillor Gordon Ross is standing down, with his party's candidate Barry Richards against Tory, Green and UKIP rivals.

And across the district the creation of Cherwell's Local Plan looks set to determine where people mark their ballot papers.

The Local Plan sets out where the district council thinks housing should go, but in the absence of one, planning inspectors can approve major schemes which the authority may find unacceptable.

This has happened in Bloxham where successive plans have been approved by an inspector after being rejected by the district council.

And a study commissioned by Oxfordshire's councils shows 22,800 homes need to be built in Cherwell by 2031.

Dickie Bird is chairman of the Cherwell branch of UKIP, which is standing in all Banbury wards but one ward in the district.

He said: "More houses need to be built, we understand that, but they have got to be built properly and with proper infrastructure.

"These developers just don't care and I'm afraid that the council is letting them get away with it. The council needs to come down hard on them.

"I think UKIP is ready to make a breakthrough. If you look at the last three or four elections our percentage of the vote has been increasing."

The Green Party is also standing in a large number of wards, with candidates in 13 out of 17 seats up for elections – and one in every Banbury ward.

The Lib Dems are only putting up two candidates in Banbury – in the town's Grimsbury and Castle and Hardwick wards.

Tim Emptage, the party's leader on the district council, said its focus was on Kidlington where it had more councillors. He said: "Kidlington has always suffered from a lack of investment compared to Bicester and Banbury."

● **Euro Elections, see Page 4**

The Astons & Heyfords:
Jenny Tamblyn **GRE**

The Astons & Heyfords:
James MacNamara **CON**

The Astons & Heyfords:
Annette Murphy **LAB**

Wroxton:
Derek Evans **LAB**

Wroxton:
George Massingham **UKIP**

Wroxton:
Douglas Webb **CON**

Wroxton:
Rita White **GRE**

Candidates vie for a Euro seat

AS WELL as voting for their local councillors, Banbury residents will also be able to vote in the European Parliament elections on the same day.

Together with the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, the European Parliament is responsible for deciding legislation and policy of the European Union.

All the main parties such as Labour, the Conservatives, the Lib Dems, the Greens and UKIP are contesting the election, including some more bizarre ones such as the Roman Party Ave.

The South East region elects ten MEPs by a proportional representation system called the party list.

This means the parties draw up lists of candidates and a number of seats are allocated to each party in proportion to the votes they receive.

Unlike in general and local elections, voters choose a party on their ballot paper rather than an individual.

Laurence Stassen	An Independence from Europe
Joyce Nattrass	An Independence from Europe
Paul Godfrey	An Independence from Europe
Alan Sheath	An Independence from Europe
Ken HOltom	An Independence from Europe
Mark Henry	An Independence from Europe
Keith Vernon	An Independence from Europe
Michaelina Argy	An Independence from Europe
Seanna Connolly	An Independence from Europe
Dorothy Sheath	An Independence from Europe
John Robinson	British National Party
Gavin Miller	British National Party
Eric Elliott	British National Party
John Moore	British National Party
Alwyn Deacon	British National Party
Anthony Bamber	British National Party
Brenda Waterhouse	British National Party
Mark Jones	British National Party
Jack Renshaw	British National Party
Yvonne Deacon	British National Party
Norman Burnett	Christian Peoples Alliance
Suzanne Fernandes	Christian Peoples Alliance
Flora Amar	Christian Peoples Alliance
Rev Anthony	Christian Peoples Alliance
Dorothy Mugara	Christian Peoples Alliance
Kayode Shedowo	Christian Peoples Alliance
Bridget Oyekan	Christian Peoples Alliance
Nnenna St Luce	Christian Peoples Alliance
Chikka Roja	Christian Peoples Alliance
Dan Hannan	Conservative
Nirj Deva	Conservative
Richard Ashworth	Conservative
Marta Andreasen	Conservative
Richard Robinson	Conservative
Graham Knight	Conservative
Julie Marson	Conservative
George Jeffrey	Conservative
Rory Love	Conservative
Adrian Pepper	Conservative
Steve Uncles	English Democrats
Julia Gasper	English Democrats
Amanda Hopwood	English Democrats
Simone Clark	English Democrats
Steve Clegg	English Democrats
Milly Uncles	English Democrats
Mike Russell	English Democrats
Mike Tibby	English Democrats
Doreen Dye	English Democrats
William James	English Democrats
Keith Taylor	English Democrats
Alexandra Phillips	Green Party
Derek Wall	Green Party
Jason Kitcat	Green Party
Miriam Kennet	Green Party
Beverley Golden	Green Party
Jonathan Essex	Green Party
Jonathan Kent	Green Party
Stuart Jeffery	Green Party
Ray Cunningham	Green Party
Terry Leach	Harmony Party
Raymond Crick	Harmony Party
Annelies Dodds	Labour
John Howarth	Labour
Emily Westley	Labour
James Swindlehurst	Labour
Farah Nazeer	Labour
James Watkins	Labour
Maggie Hughes	Labour
Christopher Clark	Labour
Karen Landles	Labour
Tracey Hill	Labour
Catherine Bearder	Liberal Democrat
Antony Hook	Liberal Democrat
Dinti Batstone	Liberal Democrat
Giles Goodall	Liberal Democrat
Ian Bearder	Liberal Democrat
Allison Moss	Liberal Democrat
Steven Sollitt	Liberal Democrat
Bruce Tennent	Liberal Democrat
John Vincent	Liberal Democrat
Alan Bullion	Liberal Democrat
Paul Weston	Liberty Great Britain
Enza Ferreri	Liberty Great Britain
Jack Buckby	Liberty Great Britain
John Morris	The Peace Party
Jim Duggan	The Peace Party
Julie Roxburgh	The Peace Party
Jeff Bolam	The Peace Party
Geoff Pay	The Peace Party
David Brown	The Peace Party
Keith Scott	The Peace Party
Imdad Hussein	The Peace Party
Munim Choudhury	The Peace Party
Charles Wilkinson	The Peace Party
Jean-Louis Pascual	The Peace Party
Dave Chesham	SP
Rob Cox	SP
Les Courtney	SP
Sean Deegan	SP
Max Hess	SP
Claudia Hogg-Blake	SP
Danny Lambert	SP
Andy Matthews	SP
Howard Pilott	SP
Mike Young	SP
Nigel Farage	UK Independence Party
Janice Atkinson	UK Independence Party
Diane James	UK Independence Party
Ray Finch	UK Independence Party
Donna Edmunds	UK Independence Party
Patricia Culligan	UK Independence Party
Nigel Jones	UK Independence Party
Alan Stevens	UK Independence Party
Simon Strutt	UK Independence Party
Barry Cooper	UK Independence Party
Julian James	YOUV
Rachel Ling	YOUV
Fulvia James	YOUV

Bobby all set to join world-famous stage school

Dancing boy with *Billy Elliot* dream

By Rachel Bayne

A BALLET dancer who dreams of dancing the world's stages is set to join a top London performing arts school.

Ten-year-old Bobby Ratcliffe will follow in the footsteps of super-model Naomi Campbell and the lead singer of Genesis, Phil Collins, when he starts lessons at the Barbara Speake Stage School in London.

The Banbury youngster has also landed himself a second audition for the hit London musical *Billy Elliot*.

Bobby said: "I used to be the only boy in my class. People say ballet is not for boys, but it is. I just ignore them and just get on with it. I would like to prove them all wrong and I am very excited to go to dance school.

"I want to be a professional ballet dancer. I love singing as well. I like to sing ballet songs and pop songs too."

Bobby was one of 180 young people at the first audition at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

He was thrilled to get a callback to play the role of Billy Elliot's best friend, Michael, and will be one of 25 young hopefuls at auditions at the end of the month.

The St John's Priory School pupil has regular lessons at the Susan Taylor Dance Academy in Banbury, where for a long time, he was the only male pupil.

He said: "I started dancing when I was three years old.

"It is really exciting news. I think *Billy Elliot* is really funny.

Bobby Ratcliffe, the boy with a dancing dream OX67084

"The dancing is really good and the acting is great.

"I would like to travel all over the world and dance."

Bobby is one of two pupils who has been awarded a scholarship for the Barbara Speake Stage School in East Acton, and will start classes in September.

Pupils study at the performing arts school until they are 16.

Proud mum Hayley Thompson, 31, who works in child protection at the Warriner School, Bloxham, said: "He has always been a dancer. He does ballet and modern and he just really enjoys it. I am really proud of him."

Bobby dreams of starring in the stage production of the film and joked that his favourite moments were watching Billy in his boxing gloves take on his first dance lesson.

He said: "It makes me laugh and it is very funny."

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Jobs worry brews at coffee factory after merger

BOSSES at the Kenco coffee factory in Banbury say it is "business as usual" after it was announced the business would be merged with a rival.

Plant owner Mondelez International has announced it wants to combine its coffee arm with Douwe Egberts Master Blenders to create the second biggest coffee company in the world after Nestle. Almost 600 staff work at the plant, which is the largest of its type in Europe.

Asked about job security, spokesman Josephine Bradley said: "No business can offer guarantees, but we are confident Banbury will have a key role to play in the business.

"Decisions will be made by the new management team but the staff are our absolute priority. We are talking to them and making sure everyone is clear as more information becomes available."

Unite union national officer Rhys McCarthy said: "Over the coming days we will be seeking guarantees over jobs."

■ 'It has the whiff of seeking to reduce the capacity of opponents'

Concern at cut to opposition's civic allowances

SCRAPPING some allowances for opposition councillors could damage local democracy, it has been claimed.

Oxfordshire County Council has cut the special allowances for most Labour councillors, while senior Conservatives will continue to be paid for their roles in running the authority.

This means members of the county council's cabinet continue to receive their "special responsibility allowance" of £12,565 each year on top of their £8,376 basic allowance but the £2,456 allowance for ten shadow cabinet members has been removed.

And the allowance for the leader of the opposition has been reduced from £14,660 to £12,565, while that for leader of the council remains unchanged.

Taxpayers' Alliance chief executive Jonathan Isaby said: "Councillors' allowances have risen considerably over the last decade or two, so any attempt to reduce that bill for local council taxpayers is to be welcomed.

"However, the shadow cabinet has an important part to play in scrutinising the actions of the council, so removing additional allowances altogether has the whiff of the council leadership seeking to reduce the capacity of its opponents to scrutinise them – which is potentially bad news for Oxfordshire residents."

County councillor Liz Brighouse, the Labour leader of the opposition, said: "One of the big problems we have is encouraging people to become councillors. The idea is that people are remunerated for the work they do.

"It is about ensuring that there is transparency and challenge in local democracy."

The proposals were made by an independent panel, made up of representatives from the voluntary sector, the business sector and the public sector.

A spokesman for the council said the total savings would be £10,000.

Council leader Ian Hudspeth said the scrutiny role would still exist. He said: "Anything to do with councillor allowances is always sensitive because we are aware that it is taxpayers' money and that's why we set up the independent panel."

Laura Price, the shadow cabinet member for adult social care, called for more radical changes to the allowances policy to make greater savings.

She said: "There's a concern when you move allowances away from the opposition party because they are there to provide scrutiny." Cultural and community services shadow cabinet member Susanna Pressel said: "I find it scandalous that several Conservative councillors are getting increased allowances at a time when many people have lost their jobs and wages are being held down."

John Sanders said he used his council expenses to subsidise long-distance travel costs, stationery and postage stamps.

He said: "It's a little bit disappointing that they've chosen to take money off the opposition and not off the cabinet – but I'm not particularly worried. It doesn't prevent me from doing anything."

John Tanner, shadow cabinet member for policy co-ordination, said Labour spoke out against the changes but voted in favour because they were recommended by an independent panel.

In its report, the panel said the changes had altered the emphasis of the role played by the opposition.

By Damian Fantato

ABOVE: Taxpayers' Alliance chief executive Jonathan Isaby

LEFT: Labour leader Liz Brighouse

Councillors' payments

- COUNCILLORS receive £8,376.96 a year in basic allowances.
- In the 2012-13 financial year, the county council paid more than £870k in expenses. This included £612k to its 76 members in basic allowances.
- Six councillors did not claim the full amount.
- It also paid out £224k in responsibility expenses for cabinet and shadow cabinet members and £37k in travel and subsidence expenses.

InBRIEF

Man convicted of sex attack on boy

■ **A MAN with learning difficulties has been convicted of sexually assaulting a boy under 13. Last Thursday, Paul Biggs, of Over Norton, was found guilty of carrying out the offence on September 1, 2007, against a boy who cannot be named for legal reasons. A jury in Oxford Crown Court cleared Biggs of one further count of sexual assault, two counts of inciting a child to engage in sexual activity, and one count of rape. He was released on bail and will be sentenced on June 12.**

Sporting offer

■ BACK-to-hockey sessions are being launched for women – beginners or former players – at a Banbury hockey club. The sessions will take place at North Oxfordshire Academy, every Wednesday, from 7pm to 8pm. Entry costs are £10 for all sessions at Banbury. Contact Shiv Steele at marketing@ banburyhockeyclub.co.uk for details.

Burglars strike

■ **A VAN, cash, a camera and tools were stolen when burglars targeted business units in Adderbury over the Bank Holiday weekend. The burglaries took place in Station Yard between Friday, May 2, and Tuesday May 6. Call PCSO Lana Smith, from the Banbury rural police team, on 101.**

School: views sought

DEVELOPERS are asking for views on plans for a new primary school.

Oxfordshire County Council wants to build it on the new Longford Park development in Banbury.

With construction expected to be completed by 2016, the proposed school would initially admit 45 pupils per year.

As the new school will not be run by the county council, the authority wants residents' views on choosing which academy trust should take it over, and what links the school should have with the community.

The school would be part of a new 1,070-home development, which is under construction near Bankside.

Plans for a further 400 homes have been proposed in the Cherwell District Council's draft Local Plan for the site south east of Banbury on Oxford Road.

Planning permission was originally granted for the Longford Park development in 2009.

To submit comments, contact: longfordpark-manager@ myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk or write to Diane Cameron, School Organisation & Planning, County Hall, FREEPOST, Oxfordshire County Council.

All responses must be received by midnight, June 4.

Families flee fire drama

TWO fire engines were called to a smoke alarm that had been triggered by unattended cooking.

The occupier of the flat in Penrose Close, Banbury, and a neighbour were treated for possible smoke inhalation on Monday, May 5.

Crews then used high-pressure fans to clear out the remaining smoke from the flat.

Crew manager Piper said: "This incident highlights the dangers of leaving cooking unattended, and the benefits of having a working smoke alarm. Ensure you have a working smoke alarm, as it will give an immediate warning of a fire and allow you to escape before the fire grows."

New stash of cash belonging to jailed conman is discovered

Judge ups payback order for trickster

Criminal William Vinson

A CAREER criminal serving nine years in prison for 101 distraction burglaries has been told to increase the amount he must pay back to £125,000, after an extra stash of money was found.

By Joe Nimmo

William Vinson posed as a new neighbour, a council worker and an electricity board inspector to target elderly people aged between 79 and 94 across the south and Midlands.

The 62-year-old was jailed at Oxford Crown Court in 2012 after he admitted 11 burglaries and asked for a further 90 to be taken into consideration by a judge.

Sometimes using the pseudonym Dave Knight, Vinson conned people in Southmoor, Checkendon, Stoke Row and Great Haseley, often posing as a neighbour needing change to pay a plumber.

Passing sentence Judge Anthony King called the defendant "despicable" and said he had carried out a "deliberate campaign that continued week after week".

Vinson, who at the time was living in Cotswold Terrace, Chipping Norton, was found to have made a total "benefit" of £148,136.08 from his crimes, which were carried out over two years.

Following an investigation by Thames Valley Police into his assets, he was told by Judge Patrick Eccles to pay back more than £112,000 or face a further two-and-a-half years in jail.

It was agreed at a hearing in June 2012 that this money would come from the sale of a mortgage-free house in Hill View Crescent, Banbury, that Vinson shared with his son, Craig.

But at a Proceeds of Crime Act hearing last Thursday prosecutor Jonathan Seely said financial investigators had now found a further £20,000, which had previously not been declared.

He told Judge Eccles officers had discovered the money was being held on Vinson's behalf by a firm of solicitors based in Peterborough.

Mr Seely said this meant the prosecution was now suggesting a "revised recoverable amount" of £132,000.

But James McCrindell, defending, said Vinson's property "was not sold for as much as predicted" and the new figure should be lower.

He argued that because his client had only received £100,000 from the sale of the house, the recoverable amount should be set at £120,000.

Judge Eccles set the repayment amount at £125,000 and said he would give Vinson 28 days to pay, with a six-month extension of his sentence if he failed to do so.

Mr McCrindell added: "During his sentence he has been doing his best to make use of all the options available to him. He has been working as a listener and helping others to read."

Budget store gets go-ahead

A NEW budget supermarket will be built in Chipping Norton after council planners last week gave it the go-ahead.

West Oxfordshire District Council backed the proposal to build an Aldi store on the former Highways Depot site at Cromwell Business Park, off Banbury Road.

There were concerns from the Midcounties Co-operative that it could affect trade in the town centre.

Local councillor Warwick Robinson warned areas like Abingdon and Bicester had suffered from the building of out-of-town shopping centres.

He said: "I fear it could have a negative impact on the vitality and vibrancy of the centre of Chipping Norton."

But town mayor Mike Tysoe said a poll showed that 70 per cent of residents had wanted the store.

He added: "The town needs it."

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MPs claim Government figures are flawed

Challenge to need for more new homes

CPRE Oxfordshire's campaign manager Helena Whall

OXFORDSHIRE MPs and council leaders have vowed to challenge the county's calculated housing need of 100,000 homes.

Among them Conservative MPs Ed Vaizey and John Howell have called on the Government to urgently review the method for calculating the figures.

And the Campaign to Protect Rural England has employed a dedicated officer to expose the Government-imposed methodology as being flawed.

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which was published in March, recommends that councils build 40,000 more homes than their own previous targets by 2031. Mr Vaizey said: "Many local communities are now faced with levels of growth that will fundamentally change the nature of settlements.

"For example, demographic trends show that the Vale of White Horse needs 468 houses per year, yet the methodology leads to a figure of 1,028."

He wrote to planning minister Nick Boles and

By Pete Hughes

said: "I would be grateful if you and your officers could consider an urgent review of the planning methodology that leads to such massive numbers of homes being planned, so that more realistic outcomes result."

Dr Howell backed the call, adding: "The SHMA is not a tested document. It is evidence only."

The county's four district council leaders, Cherwell's Barry Wood, Matt Barber, Ann Ducker and Barry Norton, all backed the call for an urgent review.

South Oxfordshire leader Ann Ducker said: "This is causing great concern and those that have looked at the methodology are questioning it."

Oxfordshire's council leaders will meet on Thursday, May 29, where Ms Ducker said she would like to use the meeting to work out how to challenge the SHMA.

West Oxfordshire District Council leader Barry Norton said his planning officers were already looking into the SHMA to see if the district's calculated need of 13,200 new homes was accurate.

He said: "I think the number is wrong for West Oxfordshire, and if our officers decide it is inaccurate we will be challenging it."

All councils are required by the Government to carry out regular SHMAs to ensure they are building enough homes.

Oxfordshire's five district council's contracted a partnership of private firms – GL Hearn Justin Gardner Consulting and SQW Consulting – to carry out the latest survey.

CPRE Oxfordshire has employed campaign manager Helena Whall to discredit the SHMA methodology and the arguments it is based on.

Dr Whall said: "We feel the SHMA is unsound, unacceptable and unwanted.

"We are not happy with the strategic plan for Oxfordshire.

"They want to provide more jobs and, therefore, they need more houses."

She also said she wanted to dispel the myth that building more houses would lower house prices.

She said: "Builders only build them if they can sell them."

Oxford City Council leader Bob Price and Oxfordshire MP Andrew Smith, however, backed the SHMA figure.

Mr Smith said: "You can always argue about these sorts of numbers, but the bottom line for me is that all the people coming to my advice surgeries and stopping me in the street say they are in desperate need of better housing."

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said people needed to recognise an "increasing number of people wanted to come and live in Oxfordshire".

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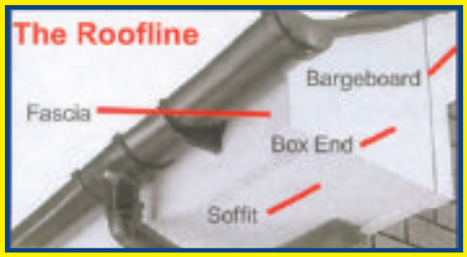

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More than 400 youngsters joined up last year

A numbers boom for county Scouts

THE number of Scouts in Oxfordshire has continued to rise – with more than 400 joining the movement last year alone.

An annual census showed there were 7,905 members in Oxfordshire, compared to 7,500 in 2013.

That is about 50 per cent up on its 5,349 members in 2005.

A record numbers of girls have also joined county groups, with 104 more, compared to 2013. This makes a total of 1,220 female members.

Deputy county commissioner Alec Stanworth said numbers were up because of the movement becoming more inclusive.

He said: "We have had groups set up in mosques –for example the 54th Oxford. Some of these groups have been really successful at bringing communities together.

"At the moment we are trying to set up a group at the Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe, like they have at Great Ormond Street Hospital."

Student Becky Alexander, 21, who organises county camps, said: "Being a Scout Leader is one of the most fulfiling things I've ever done.

"It's something I can do on a flexible basis when I have enough time to spare. It's great

By Damian Fantato

helping young people in my local area get the most out of life and watching them develop week in, week out.

"I've also picked up loads of transferable skills that I'm able to use in my job and wider life."

Scouting numbers have continued to rise for the ninth consecutive year with a total membership of more than 550,000.

Chief Scout Bear Grylls said: "I am super proud to see so many young people and adults learning new life skills, achieving personal rewards through Scouting in Oxfordshire.

"It is exciting to see Scout numbers continue to rise across the UK. The big reasons for this are that more and more young people are realising that Scouting can give them so much – whether it's the opportunity to be involved with some incredible adventures, learn practical life, outdoor and teamwork skills, or helping to improve their local communities.

"People don't want to miss out. Scouting brings them all together, empowers them and allows them to make a positive impact."

The Scout Association was founded in 1910 by soldier and writer Robert Baden-Powell.

RIGHT: Chief Scout Bear Grylls

BELOW: Alex Stanworth

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InBRIEF

Choir to boost fundraising

THE Gospel Edge choir will be joined by *Banbury's Got Talent* finalists Sarah Mellor and the Skeptics for a concert to raise funds for a weekly activities club for the elderly. Banbury's Cluster Care group is a volunteer-run, weekly day-care club for the elderly, which provides meals and activities, such as art and craft, musical entertainment and quizzes, for elderly residents. Choir leader Caroline Watsham said: "I have been a visitor at Cluster on many occasions, singing to the members, and I know what a valuable resource it is. The volunteers do a fantastic job, giving up so much of their time, and it is a wonderful gathering place for the elderly folks, many of whom lead otherwise isolated lives. The Cropedy choir will perform at Mollington Village Hall, in Chestnut Road, tomorrow. Doors will open from 6.45pm. Tickets cost £6. Contact 01295 750442 for more information.

Festival cash for generators

HOUSING developer Taylor Wimpey has given The Bodfest Music Festival £1,500 to buy two power generators. The annual event in Bodicote will take place on July 12, from 11am to 11pm, at the Horse and Jockey pub, The Plough and The Spice Room. Bodfest committee chairman Glen Griffin said: "The generators will also be available for community groups – like the Scouts – to use throughout the year. We get a lot of support from villagers for Bodfest and everyone looks forward to it. Last year we had more than 3,000 people come along throughout the event."

Grandfather set target time for 100-mile race back in 1925

Rider hopes to beat a family cycling record

By Sam McGregor

WHEN Paul Needle sets off on a 100-mile cycling race, the only thing on his mind will be beating a record set by his grandfather almost 90 years ago.

Back in 1925, Mr Needle's grandfather Percy clocked 5 hours and 23 minutes completing in the Balham 100-mile cycle ride.

As former serviceman Mr Needle, 46, continues his training in preparation for the gruelling 100-mile Prudential Ride London-Surrey challenge, his target is to beat that time.

In August, he will join 28,000 other competitors, to race from the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, through the Surrey countryside tackling a series of steep hills on the way, and finish at The Mall, central London.

Mr Needle, of Winston Drive, Banbury, said he took part in the race last year – completing it in just over six hours.

He said: "About a week after the event, I popped over to my parents' house. My mum put a big trophy that my grandfather had won on the table. It was for The Balham 100.

"I looked at his 100-mile race time and could not believe it.

"My grandfather is no longer with us but straight away I thought that had to be my goal this year."

Former air engineer Mr Needle, who served with the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm from 1984 to 1989, hopes his racing efforts will also raise cash for charity Blind Veterans UK.

Now a transport manager for Smiths & Sons (Bletchington) Ltd, Mr Needle, was previously based on HMS Ark Royal, and as ground support at Culdrose, Cornwall.

He said: "Having been in the Forces, I wanted to raise money for a charity that supports veterans.

"When I heard about the work of Blind Veterans UK, which helps vision-impaired ex-service men and women, it really struck a chord."

Mr Needle, who grew up in Steeple Aston, where his parents, Roger and Linda, still live, took up cycling about three years ago after completing several triathlons.

Before his main challenge in August, Mr Needle plans to compete in slightly shorter events in Warwick and the New Forest.

He said: "The hills on the Prudential Ride London-Surrey challenge are massive.

"I don't know whether it's a good or bad thing knowing the course.

"The first time I took part I didn't know when the hills were coming. But it's so scenic, and the camaraderie between the riders is amazing."

Mr Needle's late grandfather, Percy, together with his great uncle Frank, who died in 1977, were founder members of the cycling group Oxford City Road Club in 1923.

Every year club members still compete for two cups in memory of Frank and his wife, Hilda.

To sponsor Mr Needle, view justgiving.com/paulneedle-onyerbike

ABOVE: Paul Needle, pictured with his bike and his grandfather's trophy, as he prepares for his 100-mile challenge

RIGHT: A picture from the family album of grandfather, Percy

Shortlist is revealed during event's 20th year

Companies line up for awards honours

THE shortlist for the county's top business competition has been unveiled – revealing the strength and depth of the local economy.

A total of 42 companies and individuals have made it to the shortlist in the Oxfordshire Business Awards, across 15 categories.

The winners will be named at a ceremony next month.

And it promises to be an even more special occasion, with the event celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Awards chairman Paul Lowe said: "The 20th anniversary year of the awards has produced one of the strongest list of finalists in the competition's history.

"It reflects the vast diversity of the Oxfordshire economy, with companies of all shapes and sizes combined with some incredibly innovative individuals.

"The awards ceremony will be a real celebration of the success of Oxfordshire business.

"It promises to be a fantastic occasion."

The list of finalists ranges from traditional businesses, such as the Hook Norton Brewery, vying for the Heart FM Marketing Excellence Award, and Kidlington-based electrical contractor Darke & Taylor, to fast-growing firms like Ardley Travel in Witney, to hi-tech companies such as Harwell-based Oxford Space Systems.

Barry Ingleton, director of training organisation Synolos, which was shortlisted in the *The Oxford Times* Charity and Community category, said: "I am really excited.

"It is brilliant news.

"We have a great concept and have expanded a lot this year.

"This will really help us move forward."

The winners will be revealed at a ceremony at the Four Pillars Hotel, Sandford-on-Thames, on June 20. One company will be unveiled as the Owen Mumford Oxfordshire Business of the Year 2014.

About 500 people are expected to attend the sell-out event, which will have former England rugby union international Martin Bayfield as guest speaker and compere.

By Andrew Smith

Oxfordshire Business Awards chairman Paul Lowe

The nominees are:

- **The Oxfordshire County Council Energy & Environment Award:** Oxford Cryosystems, Long Hanborough; WMP Creative, Tubney; Zircotec, Abingdon.
- **The Oxford Brookes University Innovation Award:** Sigmavision, Weston-on-the-Green; Ice Oxford, Witney; Aldens, Oxford.
- ***The Oxford Times* Charity and Community Award:** Acre Training and Consultancy, Kidlington; the Response Organisation, Littlemore; Synolos, Witney.
- **The Ridgeway Digital Innovation Award:** ABRS, Henley; Jack FM, Oxford; Greenredeem, Benson.
- **The Four Pillars Cultural Events and Tourism Award:** Aston Pottery, Aston; Chipping Norton Literary Festival; Mill and Old Swan, Minster Lovell.
- **The Heart Marketing Excellence Award:** ADS, Combe; Malory Band, Chipping Norton; Hook Norton Brewery, Hook Norton.
- **The Hays Customer Care Award:** Brethertons, Banbury; Shawcity, Watchfield; STL Communications, Witney.
- **The Carter Jonas Export Award:** WMP Creative, Tubney; Zircotec, Abingdon; Oxford Cryosystems, Long Hanborough. The Oxfordshire LEP New Business Award: Earthwise Products, Didcot; Oxford Space Systems, Harwell; Hexagon Business Centres, Witney.
- **The Milton Park Small Business Award:** CQR Consulting, Cassington; Oxford Cryosystems, Long Hanborough; Shawcity, Watchfield.
- **The NatWest Large Business Award:** Air Tanker, Brize Norton; Nicholson's Nurseries, North Aston; Darke & Taylor, Kidlington.
- **The Blue Law by Darbys Employer of the Year Award:** Audley Travel, Witney; Oxford Products, Witney; Hawkins Group, Banbury.
- **The Oxfordshire Apprenticeship of the Year Award:** Oxford Knowledge Company, Oxford; Maylarch Environmental, Stanton Harcourt; Airbus Helicopters, Kidlington.
- **The Shaw Gibbs Young Business Person of the Year Award:** Robert Drake, CDO, Witney; Dave Fletcher, White October; Oxford; Alex Minchin, Zest Digital, Launton.
- **The Shaw Gibbs Business Person of the Year Award:** Shaun Jardine, Brethertons, Banbury; Andrew Hammond, Oxford Products, Witney; Timon Colegrove, Hunts Paper and Pixels, Kidlington.

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Knockout show to be put on by boxers

Banbury Boxing Club members in training for their national boxing compeition at the weekend

COMPETITORS will be pulling no punches at a national boxing competition taking place at Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Banbury.

Banbury Boxing Club, which trains at the centre twice a week, has teamed up with Cherwell District Council and Parkwood Leisure to host the event on Sunday.

Members of the club will be taking part in the supporting bouts for the England Boxing/ABA Junior Championship Quarter Final between the Home Counties and Western Counties boxing associations.

Tom Gubbins, Cherwell's senior recreation and sport development officer, said: "We have been supporting Banbury Boxing Club since it was formed in September 2012 and are delighted one of our leisure centres will be hosting such an exciting event.

"We would encourage as many people as possible to come along and support the Banbury and home counties boxers as they take on their competitors."

A total of eight male and female boxers from the Banbury club will take part in contests against opponents from across the country boxing over three two-minute rounds.

There will be up to ten championship contests, with the winners going through to the next round hoping to eventually be crowned England Junior Champion.

Tom Malcher, head coach of Banbury Boxing Club, said: "This is a great opportunity for our members to put their training into practice and experience a national competition with a home crowd cheering them on.

"This is the first time in history Banbury has hosted a national championship like this.

"We are looking forward to welcoming the county boxers and hopefully scoring some of our own victories, while offering a thrilling afternoon of entertainment for the spectators."

The event will take place at Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Banbury, on Sunday at 1pm.

Doors open at 12.15pm and the cost of entry is £5 pay on the door.

Banbury Boxing Club is a not-for-profit organisation offering safe and professional training for males and females aged between ten and 30-years-old.

For more information visit banburyboxingclub.co.uk

Sparring at the Woodgreen Leisure Centre, Banbury, where Banbury Boxing Club is based

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Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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POWER OF LOVE Sociable, affectionate and relaxed Bedford female, 34, seeking a happy, uncomplicated man, to share the future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155988 or send a text to 80360**

LETS GO OUT Caring, honest and reliable Witney female, 36, enjoys keeping fit and nights out at the pub with friends, would like to meet a like-minded gent, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154933 or send a text to 80360**

JUST FRIENDS Bubbly, fun to be around, 44 year old Milton Keynes female, voluptuous, enjoy 80s music and reading. Would like to meet a gay male for friendship and to share happy, fun times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171091**

GENUINE PARTNER WANTED! Sincere, loyal, Christian Banbury female, 45, searching for a loving, kind-hearted and honest man, for friendship initially and hopefully a romantic relationship in the future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154128 or send a text to 80360**

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CATCH A FALLING STAR Caring, loving, loyal, 46 year old Buckingham female, 5'4'', curvy, brown eyes, enjoy going to pubs, dancing, music. WLTM a loyal, independent male, for companionship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165815**

ASK ME OUT! Easy-going, independent, 48 year old Luton female, blonde, blue eyes, love walks, pubs, meals out, positive people, cinema. WLTM a fit positive male, to get to know with views to start a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167026 or send a text to 80360**

A CURIOUS FEELING Loyal, considerate and sincere Milton Keynes girl, 49, 5'4'', brunette, average build and a non-smoker. Looking to find an imaginative, unconventional gent for love and an honest future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 169996 or send a text to 80360**

GOOD LUCK CHARM Creative, honest and sincere Hemel Hempstead woman, 49, enjoys cooking, gardening and family life, looking for a cultured, mellow gent, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149032 or send a text to 80360**

QUIET AT FIRST Quiet, affectionate, black Luton woman, 49, would like to meet a happy, stable, loving man, for companionship and a little bit of romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149025**

BUBBLY WOMAN Bubbly, fun lady, 50, short hair, slim build, blue/green eyes, likes pubs, clubs and watching tv, enjoys gardening, bike riding, looking for a man to build friendship and love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152675**

BIKERS! BIKERS! BIKERS! Attractive, brunette biker babe, 51, 5'8'', would like to meet a similar minded man for fun and possible relationship. Enjoys dancing, evenings out and trips away, are you my Valentino Rossi? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 168207 or send a text to 80360**

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 52, 5'7'', grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804**

ASK ME OUT! Caring, fit, 52 year old Chipping Norton female, 5'7'', slim build, blue eyes, brunette, GSOH, enjoys swimming & dog walking. WLTM a caring, loving male for hopefully a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164129 or send a text to 80360**

FEEL IT COMING NOW Down to earth Chesham female, 52, good sense of humour, seeking a male, 48-56, to share and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 160626 or send a text to 80360**

ONE LOVE Warm-hearted, caring and selfless Aylesbury female, 52, 5'6'', searching for an energetic, trustworthy male, good sense of humour a must, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155653**

SIMILAR INTERESTS? Caring, loving, easy-going, 52 year old Witney female, 5'7'', slim build, brown hair, blue eyes, good sense of humour, enjoy swimming and dog walking. Seeks a caring male for friendship, fun and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170647**

START LIVING Independent, insightful and focused Aylesbury female, 54, searching for a calm, understanding male, to build a lasting, happy future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161079 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S FIND EACH OTHER Down-to-earth, loving, black Wolverhampton female, 58, 5'4'', seeking a nice man, with GSOH, to enjoy each others interests, travel together and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 148802**

RECIPE FOR LOVE Kind hearted, sociable Oxford lady, 58, active, caring, GSOH, enjoys rock concerts, seaside, animals and driving, searching for a warm, loving and funny gent, for company, sharing and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130132**

LIFE CAN BE BETTER Honest, trustworthy,caring Milton Keynes widow, 59, loves animals, would like to meet a caring, male with a good sense of humour, to enjoy good company together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166689 or send a text to 80360**

SIMILAR TO MYSELF? Cuddly, honest, witty woman, 59, 5'3'', N/S, blonde hair, likes swimming, the theatre and weekend breaks away, seeking a humorous, reliable male, with similar interests, to share a life together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153853 or send a text to 80360**

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2'', curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360**

AN ENCHANTED EVENING Intelligent, smartly dressed, 64 year old Witney female, widow, who enjoys socialising, theatre, cinema and holidays. Seeks a male to spend the evenings and weekends with who has similar interests. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170119**

DESCRIBE YOURSELF Fun loving Bedford male, 65, open minded and active, likes cosy times in, social drinks, reading and music, would like to meet a male, for friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154642 or send a text to 80360**

RELY ON ME Happy, friendly, christian woman, 67, enjoys long walks along the coast, puzzles and 60s music, looking for a N/S, christian man, to share friendship and a little bit of romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149039 or send a text to 80360**

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FRIENDSHIP OR MORE Friendly Christian lady, 54, curvy brunette, own car, enjoys indoor and outdoor life, cooking and bowling, looking for someone with similar interests, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150961 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU Friendly, kind and caring Bedford female, 54, attractive, 5'2'', cuddly, enjoys, theatre, historical places, seaside and writing. Seeks an easy-going, Christian male, 45-56 for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 169312 or send a text to 80360**

ANYONE INTERESTING? Happy, 55 year old Luton female, widow, enjoys holidays and travel, cooking and entertaining. Would like to meet a happy, jolly male, with a good sense of humour, to enjoy evenings in and out. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167294 or send a text to 80360**

SOMETHING LASTING Perceptive, polite and romantic Bampton woman, 57, my children and grandchildren are a huge joy in my life. I would like to find an energetic, consistent man, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167144 or send a text to 80360**

SHARE THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE TOGETHER Friendly, kind, 59 year old Aylesbury female, enjoys cinema, walking, cooking and going to carboot sales. Would like to meet someone to share time with, friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 168889 or send a text to 80360**

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE Loving, professional, honest Bedford woman, 60, enjoys outdoor sports, singing, the gym and home life, would like to meet a man, with similar interests, for friendship and possibly more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150736**

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Bubbly, fun, 60 year old Bicester lady, 5'9'', slim build, would like to meet a caring, genuine and sincere male, who has a good sense of humour and is romantic for friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171086 or send a text to 80360**

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 62, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451**

DO IT TOGETHER Down-to-earth, retired Bicester lady, 68, enjoys car boot sales, bingo, eating out and generally always up for a laugh, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158321 or send a text to 80360**

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 72, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046**

SEEKING MY MATCH Warm and friendly Aylesbury widow, 72, active, looking for sincere and genuine male, for company and friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151352**

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL Caring, honest, kind, 74 year old female, widow, slim, fit, likes going out for meals and theatre trips. Would like to meet a gentleman for companionship and friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166313 or send a text to 80360**

HONEST COMPANY SOUGHT Kind, caring Oxford female, 79, likes country drive, pub lunches, fishing, seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143388**

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 34, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837**

CARING & CONSIDERATE Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360**

MUCH MUCH MORE Bright, upbeat and happy Oxfordshire man, 41, with personality, would like a date with a bubbly, tender, warm-hearted girl, to share the good times and great company. Could you be the one for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111253 or send a text to 80360**

PERFECT HARMONY Fun-loving, easygoing and tactile Witney biker, 42, 6ft, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, would like to meet a fun-loving, cheeky lady, to share a happy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108035**

A LUCKY STRIKE Rational, positive and expressive Didcot man, 46, would like to find a funny, helpful female, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161546**

LOOK TO THE FUTURE Jovial, innovative and self-sufficient Reading gent, 47, wants to meet woman, to have fun and who knows. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157382 or send a text to 80360**

DON'T BE SHY, GIVE ME A TRY! Charming, happy, Abingdon male, 47, 6', enjoys pubs, clubs and nights out, but just as happy with a walk in the countryside and a night in by the fire with the right person. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164128 or send a text to 80360**

LOTS TO OFFER Smart, curious and constructive Oxford male, 47, 6'2'', would like to meet an interesting, active girl, to build a lasting, happy future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146182**

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 47, 6'3'', looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080**

AN ENCHANTED EVENING Understanding, caring, 47 year old Oxford male, 5'11'', brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys walks in the countryside, old pubs, fitness, sports. Seeks an affectionate female, 40-50, for a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170899 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 48, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427**

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardworking Oxford male, 51, 5'7'', brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027**

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 52, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360**

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 52, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479**

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 52, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894**

FUN AND ENJOYMENT Kind, caring and reliable, 53 year old Oxford male, like coastal walks, the countryside, animals, eating out, cosy nights in, history, DIY, cooking, seeking a female for a long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171063 or send a text to 80360**

EYE TO EYE Honest, caring, reliable, male, 53 interests are walking, countryside, coastal walks, animals, eating out, cosy nights in, F1, cooking, DIY, history, architecture, looking for a LTR. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152776 or send a text to 80360**

SADDLE UP Friendly, blue-eyed Oxford male, 53, 5'5'', works with horses, seeking a loving and active countrygirl, 40-60, to settle down with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104741 or send a text to 80360**

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 54, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278**

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 56, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836**

MAKE A DATE Young-at-heart, blue-eyed Wallingford man, 58, GSOH, enjoys dancing, would like to meet a friendly lady, to get to know each other and see where that leads to. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360**

CARING NATURE Friendly, adventurous and vibrant Witney male, 59, would like to meet a bubbly, observant lady, for good times, great company and maybe more if there is a spark. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595**

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 59, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360**

PASSION FLOWER Creative, instinctive and sympathetic Wallingford man, 60, looking for an approachable, helpful female, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360**

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury man, 60, 5'6'', slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360**

FUN AND LAUGHTER Honest, sensitive and decent Oxford man, 60, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145981 or send a text to 80360**

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6'', slim build, self employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930**

SCRUBS UP WELL! Optimistic, positive, 62 Witney male. I'm active with a good sense of humour. Having diverse interests and still scrubbing up well, seeking an attractive lady who is also active and enjoys life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161846 or send a text to 80360**

SO GOOD TOGETHER Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 63, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466085**

MORE IN TIME Thoughtful, kind, self-employed Witney male, 65, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413 or send a text to 80360**

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 67, 6', slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812**

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Solvent, retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 68, own home and car etc, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship then who knows? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140**

LOVING LIFE Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 68, 5'9'', loves soul and motown music, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998**

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 71, 5'6'', GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360**

NICE DAYS AHEAD Easygoing, non-smoking Abingdon widower, 72, 5'9'', enjoys travel, pub meal and car boot sales, would like to meet a nice non-smoking lady, to settle down with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116036 or send a text to 80360**

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502 or send a text to 80360**

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937**

SAIL AWAY Sociable, bubbly and happy Bicester female, 42, seeking a chatty, optimistic female, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147448 or send a text to 80360**

HAPPY DAYS Honest female, 58, new to Luton, searching for a sincere female friend, to socialise with and enjoy a little of life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170375 or send a text to 80360**

ANYONE? Young-at-heart, 66 year old Luton female, would like to meet a female of a similar age for friendship and to go on holiday together this year. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170118 or send a text to 80360**

IT'S YOUR MOVE Outgoing, energetic and warm-hearted Oxford male, 42, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, live music and loads more, simply searching for an outgoing, older man, for fun times, laughter and lots more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 103263 or send a text to 80360**

MADE FOR EACH OTHER Happy go lucky Abingdon-On-Thames male, 48, 5'9'', medium build, short hair, likes walks, cinema, social drink, quiet pubs, seeking a nice guy, for friendship and hopefully more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166651 or send a text to 80360**

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 65, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624**

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 67, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360**

SOCIAL TIMES Caring, sociable 67 Abingdon-On-Thames male. I am semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for similar male to share good times, fun and friendship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161819 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 70, 5'9'', medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360**

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Misfit band who are not in tune with anybody

FRANK (15, 95 mins) Comedy/Drama/Musical/Romance. Domhnall Gleeson, Michael Fassbender, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Scoot McNairy, Francois Civil, Carla Azar, Tess Harper, Hayley Derryberry. Director: Lenny Abrahamson.

In the mid 1980s, musician Chris Sievey gave birth to Frank Sidebottom, a sharp-suited comic persona with a large papier-mache head, who was forever 35 years old and carried a hand-puppet sidekick named Little Frank.

This cartoonish alter-ego became ensconced in the Madchester music scene, made regular appearances on TV and famously gave birth to Caroline Aherne's mock talk show host Mrs Merton on one of his radio shows.

Having faded into relative obscurity in the 1990s, Sidebottom made a series of comebacks and remained a cult favourite on the music and comedy scenes until Sievey's death in June 2010.

Journalist Jon Ronson's memories of the man and the myth provide an unlikely spark of inspiration for *Frank*, a musical comedy that is, to be frank, too self-consciously bonkers for its own good.

Ronson's script, co-written by Peter Straughan, taps into the appeal of other outsider musicians like Daniel Johnston and Captain Beefheart as it dramatises the efforts of a group of misfits to record an album.

Oscar nominee Michael Fassbender, who was terrifying in *12 Years A Slave*, spends almost the entire film encased within a giant fibreglass noggin, concealing his emotions from us as well as the other cast.

The unlikely narrator though is Jon (Domhnall Gleeson), a musically challenged, socially awkward young man, who composes lyrics in his bedroom.

During a walk along the beachfront, he encounters a band called the Soronprfbs, whose keyboardist has just suffered a mental breakdown.

"Can you play, C, F and G?" asks the band's manager, Don (Scoot McNairy), and Jon is hastily enlisted to play a gig that night where he must gel seamlessly with theremin player Clara (Maggie Gyllenhaal), French bassist Baraque (Francois Civil), percussionist Nana (Carla Azar) and quixotic lead singer Frank (Fassbender).

The concert is a disaster but Jon keeps his place and joins the band at a rural Irish retreat to record an LP.

In this idyll, Jon discovers that Frank plays with madness every day and demands unachievable perfection from the band.

"Frank is, with all his issues, the 100 per cent sanest cat I've ever met," coos Don.

There are undeniable moments of fiery brilliance in Lenny Abrahamson's film, including a sexually-charged encounter between Jon and Clara in a hot tub.

But these cannot compensate for the lunacy that Frank wears like a badge of honour.

A scene from *Frank*, with Maggie Gyllenhaal, as Clara; Michael Fassbender, as Frank; Domhall Gleeson, as Jon; Francois Civil, as Baraque and Carla Azar, as Nana

Every member of the band is dysfunctional to the point that we struggle to relate to them.

"I used to have sex with mannequins. It's a condition," casually confesses Don, one of the more down-to-earth members of the crazed circus.

Gyllenhaal sinks her pearly whites into her role with gusto but Gleeson's delusions of musical grandeur wear thin well before the Soronprfbs embark on an ill-fated trip to Texas to perform at the South by Southwest music festival.

CakeWhat's on

Music

SATURDAY: New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Jeff Beck. Electric guitarist and his band. 7.30pm. £39.40-£42.40 + trans. fee. *0844 871 3020.*

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford: Dmitry Sitkovetsky (violin) and Oxford Philomusica perform Nimrod Borenstein Violin Concerto, Op. 60 (world premiere) and Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64. 8pm. £40, £28, £18, £10. *01865 980980.*

St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford: Oxford University Press Choir Concert. Shakespeare's Garland: celebrating the 450th anniversary of the Bard's birth. 7.30pm. £10, £8 concessions, under-18s free.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury:
Until May 17, *Twelfth Night*. A classic comedy of love and confusion in the land of Illyria awash with "witty fools" and "foolish wit". 7.45pm. £9, concession £8. Banbury Cross Players.
May 18, screening *Mandela - Long Walk To Freedom*, 12A. A chronicle of Nelson Mandela's life. 7.30pm. Box office: *01295 279002*.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:
May 17, Hiss and Boo Music Hall. The much-loved Hiss & Boo are back with a laughter-packed show offering a cornucopia of comedy and song from a talented cast. With convulsive comics, superb singers and scintillating specialty acts, The Hiss & Boo Music Hall promises an evening of splendiferous entertainment perfectly suited to the feel of our auditorium. 7.45pm. £15, concession £13.
May 18, Encore Dance. The Company present a showcase of their unique blend of spectacular dance and cutting edge choreography. High-energy performance across a variety of dance styles. The performance premieres new works by international choreographers, Christopher Moore (Ballet Theatre UK), Jodie Blemmings (Matthew Bourne New Adventures) and David Wood (Kylie Minogue). This stunning evening of dance celebrates the high energy and talents of a young company of the dance stars of the future. £14, concession £12. 7pm.
May 21, Kathryn Tickell and The Side. Channeling their diverse musical experiences into a powerful new sound, The Side stay true to the spirit and essence of Kathryn's own Northumbrian folk tradition whilst unleashing the talent and creativity of each individual musician. Evocative slow airs that could break your heart move seamlessly into life-affirming jigs and reels; Amy storms into a clog dance; Kathryn's dizzying rapid-fire piping contrasts with the richness of the cello and Ruth's sparkling harp playing melds it all together. 7.45pm. £17, concession £15. Box office: *01608 642350*

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Banbury's Lloyd Sabin, who was unbeaten with 54

Team pull out a 14pt lead, after playing only game to be completed

Banbury steal an early march

OXFORDSHIRE skipper Luke Ryan took 5-10 as Banbury stole an early march on their Division 1 rivals with a 60-run victory at Gerrards Cross under the Duckworth /Lewis Method.

The left-arm spinner sent Gerrards Cross reeling to 75 all out as they chased a revised target of 136 off 20 overs after a big rain break.

Earlier, Banbury had reached 107-3 off 28.5 overs after being put in to bat when there was a huge downpour.

Lloyd Sabin was unbeaten on 54 at the time, with his runs coming off 90 balls and including four boundaries and a six.

Nathan Hawkes chipped in with 31 at a run a ball.

It wasn't until 6pm that play was able to resume with the Gerrards Cross innings.

Left-arm seamer Liam Manley made a double breakthrough by removing Matthew Watson and David Solway with the score on 17.

Off-spinner Richard West (2-19) and Ryan then combined to work their way through the rest of the order, before skipper Jimmy Phillips picked up the final wicket.

And with it being the only game completed, Banbury are already 14 points clear of the their rivals.

BANBURY

L Sabin not out 54
D Harris c Solway b D Hampton 1
C Haupt c T Hampton b D Hampton . .5
N Hawkes c D Hampton b Rimmer . .31
J Cater not out 9
Extras 7
Total (3 wkts, 28.5 ovs) 107

Fall: 1-7, 2-27, 3-72.

Bowling: T Hampton 5-1-12-1, Hoddle 6-1-14-0, D Hampton 5.5-0-35-1, Knudsen 8-1-29-0, Rimmer 4-0-17-1.

GERRARDS CROSS

H Taj b Ryan 11
M Watson c Cater b Manley 9
D Solway c Sabin b Manley 0
D Hampton b West 5
P Patel c&b Ryan 16
J Hammerton st Cater b West 4
R Knudsen st Cater b Ryan 0
J Hoddle st Cater b Ryan 0
S Rimmer lbw Phillips 21
T Hampton c Manley b Ryan 2
M Sriharan not out 0
Extras 7
Total (all out, 15.3 ovs) 75

Fall: 1-17, 2-17, 3-26, 4-40, 5-45, 6-45, 7-45, 8-57, 9-62.

Bowling: Bartlett 2-0-13-0, Manley 2-0-8-2, Blanchard 2-0-8-0, West 4-0-19-2, Ryan 4-1-10-5, Phillips 1.3-0-17-1.

● **Gerrards Cross 2pts, Banbury 20**

SERIOUS CRICKET HOME COUNTIES PREMIER LEAGUE

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	A	B	Pts
Banbury	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**20**
Aston Rowant	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**6**
Burnham	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
Harefield	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
Henley	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**6**
High Wycombe	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
Oxford	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**6**
Slough	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
Tring Park	1	0	0	0	1	0	6
Gerrards Cross	1	0	0	1	0	2	2

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STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

You're looking at life as if the glass is half empty when, in fact, it's half full Aries. Where is that fighting spirit your sign is so famous for? Talks had this weekend can tell you who's really responsible for what went on at the beginning of the month. Don't repeat what you hear, or you may be labelled a gossip. Ring now to hear how your love sector begins to get exciting.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

It isn't the hard times ahead that wear you out, it's the pebble in your shoe when you're walking that is hurting you. Throw off the inhibitions of past memories and begin again. Everyone has a past, it's beginning a new future that's the answer to your happiness now. You think you're being judged but you're not. Ring now so I can help you to clear your conscience.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

There is a really magical feel to your chart this week where things you didn't dream could happen stand the chance of becoming a reality. Why is it that you rule out the possibility of doing new things for yourself? Reach out and dip your toes in the waters of excitement. Chance encounters and meetings must not be passed by. Dare to ask for that number. Ring now for courage.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

You can't take any more lies can you Cancer? Why then are you allowing yourself to be in the company of the person who has and will continue to prove so draining? Move on and mix with a better crowd, before you waste any more of your valuable time. The home may cost you more than you'd planned but don't cut corners, or it will end up costing you a fortune. Ring now for a full reading.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

It seems you don't yet know the full story of what did or didn't go on last week but by keeping company with one side you are giving the impression that you do. Stay neutral Leo. You'll find out why by Thursday when the truth comes crawling out of the woodwork. A great week to go for job interviews and take tests. Give me a call now to hear which sign can't help telling lies.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Although you have had pain and suffering in your life, you have managed to pick yourself up, dust yourself off and move on. This week someone tries to drag you back into pain and upset and it's imperative that you don't allow them to do so. You know who you are now and you know who doesn't want to help themselves. Time you parted ways. Ring now to focus on good times.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

When people invite you out, don't try to think of excuses why you can't go, but accept with an open heart and open arms. The Moon makes you more emotional than usual on Monday and you will be tempted to confess to things you'll regret. Count to ten and remember my words. You'll be glad you did when you see how many lives you've helped in the process. Ring now and I'll explain.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You're not so interested in money this week as you are the fame, compliments and notoriety you can get from your work. Long distance travel is well starred but brings with it a fair few problems and frustrations. Just remember, it's worth it in the long run. Flirting with faces who aren't free can prove your downfall. Find out the status of someone before, not after. Ring me. Let's talk love.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

I think that you've learnt a lot from the last few days. You've had to take in a lot of information which you weren't ready for and you haven't had the time to process what it means to your future. You do know how it makes you feel and what needs to be done though, so act on those gut instincts. Ring now to hear how Venus favours you getting an apology by Friday.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be. You have been trying to impress other people for far too long now when it's only by being yourself that you will actually attract like minded people. Family prove annoying and want answers about your personal life. Word to the wise. They already know more than you think! Ring now to hear how.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Happiness is within your reach, you just have to stop thinking that you're being punished for the past. New friends want to spend time in your company but just make sure you're not revealing more than is necessary about all that's gone on in your past. It's the future they'll be making with you. Ring now to hear why it's worth replying by phone to text messages at the weekend.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

Don't decline invites but accept them. I can see you've needed to get out and blow off some steam for a few weeks now. Maybe if you allowed yourself to relax you would start to see clearly the answers you seek in life. Don't lie to cover for so called friends. The stars show it will only come back on you if you do. Ring now to hear why Geminis are important to your future.

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1 ARTICLES FOR SALE
2 PETS
3 SERVICES
4 BUSINESS
5 ENTERTAINMENTS
6 HOLIDAYS
7 EDUCATION
8 PUBLIC NOTICES
9 RECRUITMENT
10 MOTORS
11 PROPERTY

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WALL Unit W70" x H70", inclusive in unit glass cabinet and cocktail cabinet £65. 01295 251016

Garden Tools & Equipment

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Miscellaneous Sales

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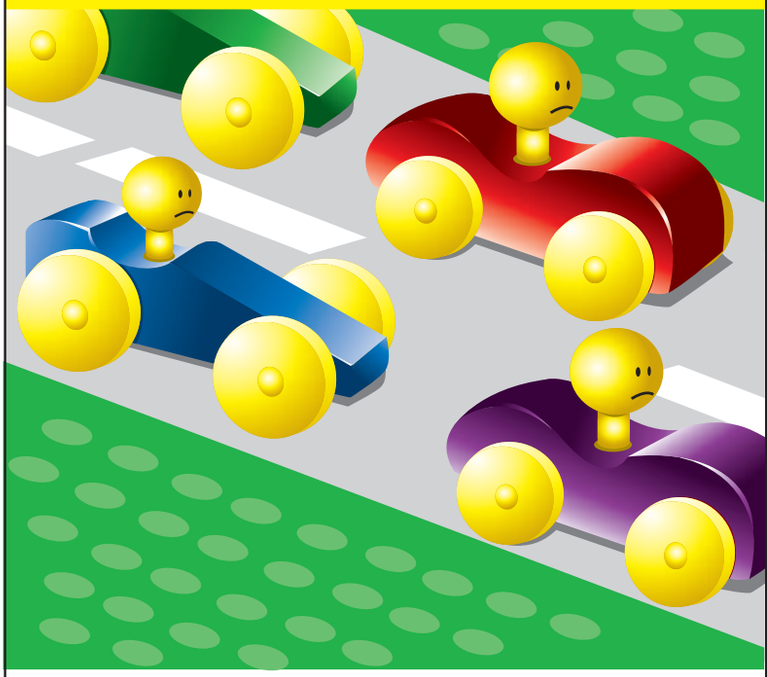

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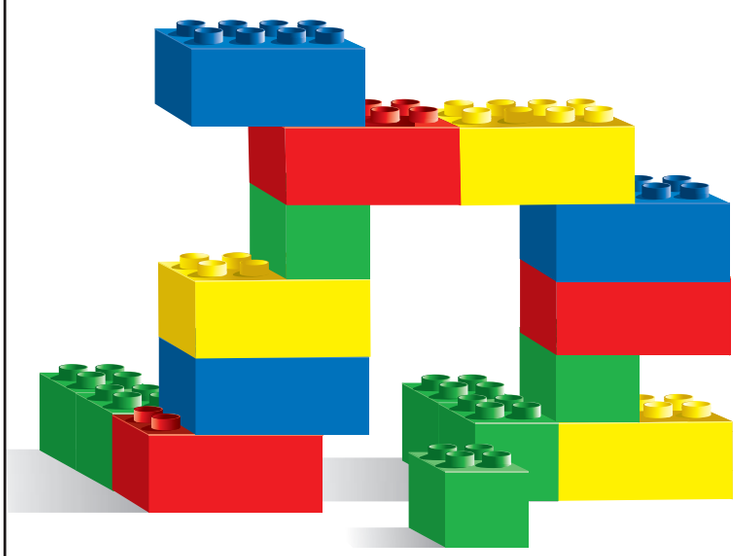

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Corsa cuts dash with racer looks

By David Duffy

If you are something of a shrinking violet who likes their car to quietly vanish when you pull up in the office car park then save yourself a couple of minutes of your life and stop reading now.

Vauxhall's Corsa Sting has been designed with just one thing in mind — to grab as much attention as possible.

And that's not too difficult to achieve when your starting point is lime-green paintwork, that glows with a chilling post-nuclear radiance and large wide-boy white-finished alloy wheels.

Add a pair of matching white exterior mirrors and two Starsky and Hutch-style white sports stripes and no one will miss you coming.

Starting from £8,995, the Corsa Sting is clearly aimed at younger drivers, so perhaps the fact that its under-bonnet potential is limited is no bad thing.

For while the car has all the looks of a bad boy, or girl, racer, this is no pocket rocket. There is no terrifying turbo-charged power plant lurking under the bonnet, nor a raucous exhaust to upset the neighbours.

Power, in fact, comes from a 1.2-litre engine delivering a modest 85 horsepower, which is tuned for economy not power.

It is mated to a five-speed manual gearbox which needs a deal of work to get the best out of the engine.

What that means in practice is that this Corsa, with its speed-sensitive power steering, is perfectly suited to cruising gently around town and trotting along on cross-country roads. Under the garish exterior everything is perfectly sensible Corsa. Quiet, reasonably refined and well screwed together, you know exactly what you are getting in a car that is a near-permanent fixture in the UK's top-three best sellers' list.

Instrumentation is clear and switchgear is simple and straightforward, if starting to look its age. A decent level of equipment ranges from air conditioning and CD/MP3 player, to an aux-in socket.

The new Corsa features a signature chrome bar, carrying the new Griffin badge, stretching across the front grille, while a re-styled front bumper with a more prominent, wider lower grille gives the Corsa a bit of a cheeky grin.

Framing the Corsa's face are so-called 'eagle-eye' headlamps, which have also made an appearance on the Meriva. The units have a chrome finish and include daytime running lights as standard. New chrome-finished fog lamps and housings complete the picture at the front.

For peace of mind, Vauxhall's warranty, for the first owner, is valid for the lifetime of the vehicle up to a maximum of 100,000 miles.

Pound for pound, there are few hatchbacks on the road that will turn as many heads. What those heads might be thinking about you is another matter.

HEAD TURNER: The Corsa Sting has white wheels and stripes

Auto facts

Model: Vauxhall Corsa Sting 1.2i 16v
Price: £9,345
Insurance group: Two
Fuel consumption (Combined): 51.4mpg
Top speed: 107mph
Length: 400cm/157.5in
Width: 171.3cm/67.5in
Luggage capacity: 10 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 9.9 gallons/45 litres
CO2 emissions: 129g/km
Warranty: 100,000 miles

Wheelsanddeals

- BRITISH drivers are happier with their cars than ever before, especially if they own a Skoda. According to new figures collected by *Auto Express* magazine's annual Driver Power survey, the average satisfaction rating for a car in the top 100 was a huge 88.36%, which equates to a 7% rise since the survey's launch in 2002. Skoda has done an incredible job this year, having taken the top three places with the Yeti, the Citigo and the Superb. The best-performing British car was the MG6.
- **SEAT is planning to launch a special anniversary version of the Ibiza hatchback on June 1 to mark 30 years since the first one rolled off the production line in SEAT's Zona Franca factory. Since then, the Ibiza has remained the Spanish car manufacturer's most iconic and popular car, with sales approaching five million across three decades and four generations.**

Futuretechnologynews

Nissan develops a car that cleans itself

NISSAN has begun tests on innovative paint technology that repels mud, rain and everyday dirt, meaning drivers may never have to clean their car again.

The specially engineered super-hydrophobic and oleophobic paint, which repels water and oils, has been applied to the new Nissan Note to create the world's first self-cleaning car.

To assess the real-world effectiveness of the super-hydrophobic as a potential aftermarket application, engineers at Nissan Technical Centre Europe will be testing the self-cleaning Note over the coming months in a variety of conditions.

Nissan is the first carmaker to apply the technology, called Ultra-Ever Dry, on automotive bodywork. By creating a protective layer of air between the paint and environment, it effectively stops standing water and road spray from creating dirty marks on the car's surface.

It's not the first time 'self-cleaning' technology has been used on the Note. The car already features a 'wash and blow dry' function on its rear view camera. This uses water and compressed air to automatically keep the lens free of dirt and ensure the Notes' safety sensors work in all conditions.

So far, the coating, which is being marketed and sold by UltraTech International Inc, has responded well to common use cases including rain, spray, frost, sleet and standing water.

Whilst there are no plans for the technology to be applied to the model as standard, Nissan will continue to consider the coating technology as a future aftermarket option.

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